



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
From 'Vascular Plants of the  
Pacific Northwest'

***SCIRPUS HETEROCHAETUS***  
**SLENDER BULRUSH**

Slender Bulrush is a tall, glabrous, grass-like perennial with firm, round stems that are 1-2 m tall and arising from stout brown rhizomes. The few leaves are borne near the base and have a sheath surrounding the stem, but the blade is small and tapers to a point. Numerous slender-stalked, solitary spikelets are borne on the spreading branch tips of an open, terminal inflorescence. Each egg-shaped spikelet is up to 17 mm long and has several flowers arranged in a tight spiral. Flowers consist of a single scale that is up to 5 mm long; it subtends 3 stamens and an ovary with 4 white bristles that are as long as the scales and arising from the base. The 3-sided achene is ca. 3 mm long with a short beak and 3 stigmas. Fruiting in August.

The more common *SCIRPUS ACUTUS* and *S. VALIDUS* are similar but have 2 stigmas and sessile spikelets arranged in small clusters.